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ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

FIRST FAIR AND CATTLE SHOW

OF THE

Hoosick Agricultural Society,

HELD AT

HOOSICK FALLS, N. Y.,

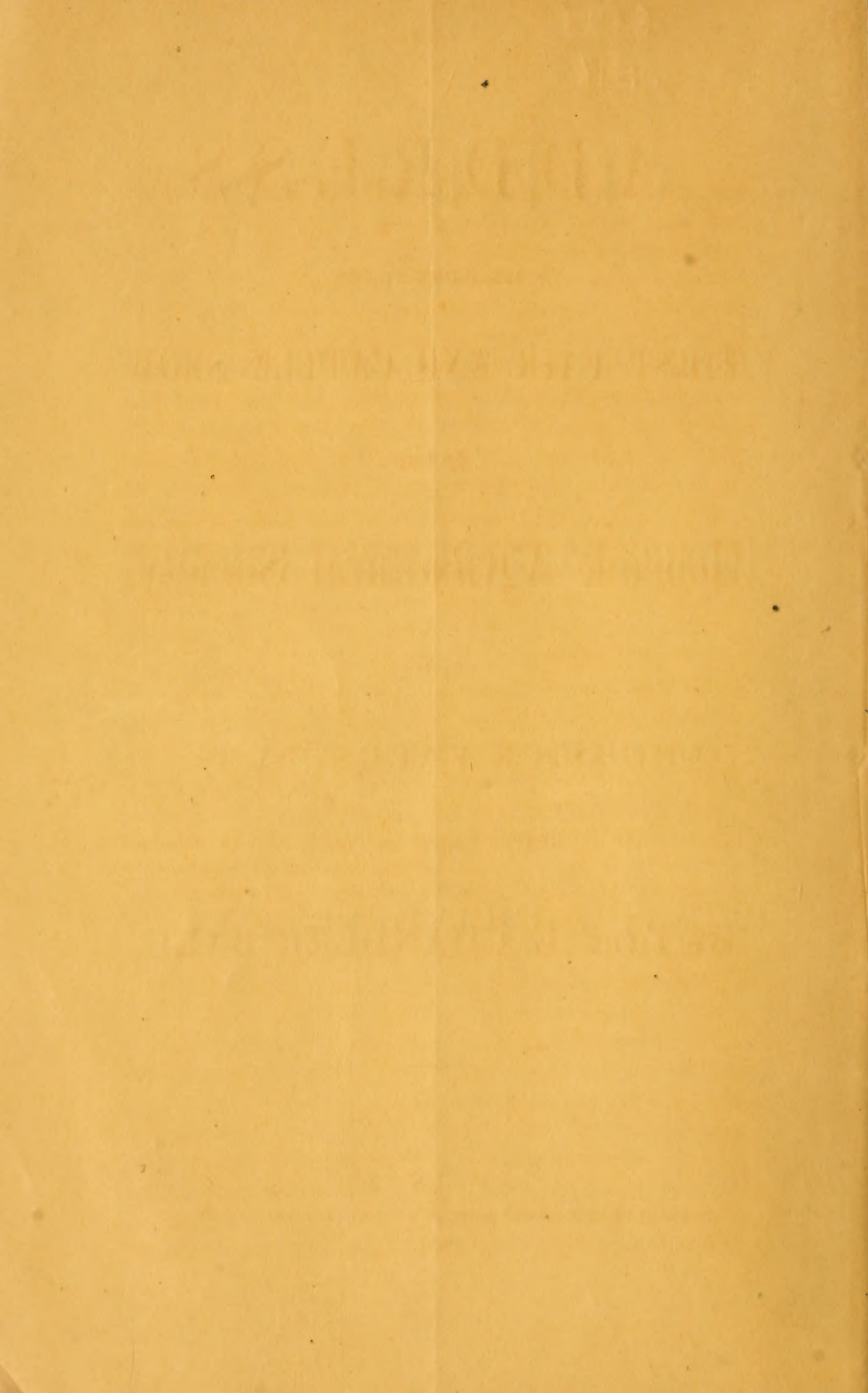
SEPTEMBER 24, 1857,

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BY HON. L. CHANDLER BALL.

TROY N. Y.:

FROM GEORGE ABBOTT'S STEAM PRESSES, 213 RIVER STREET.

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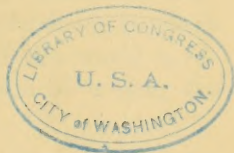
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HON. L. CHANDLER BALL,

I have the pleasure of tendering you the thanks of the Hoosick Agricultural Society for your excellent Address, and am instructed to ask a copy for publication. Believing that the Address contains important truths, which will do much good if disseminated among the people of this district, I hope you will comply with this request.

Yours, Truly,

VOLNEY RICHMOND, Pres't.

Hoosick Falls, Sept. 25, 1857.

To V. RICHMOND, Esq.

Your favor of the 25th inst., asking for a copy of the Address delivered by me at the Hoosick Fair, is received. Your approval of the sentiments contained in the Address, is highly gratifying.

In the hope that you will not be disappointed in the amount of good you expect from its publication, I with some reluctance send you a copy, and remain

Your Friend,

L. CHANDLER BALL.

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MR. PRESIDENT,

AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Hoosick, for a hundred years, has been occupied by a hardy and industrious class of farmers. Annually for a hundred years, this valley has yielded to the husbandman, its golden harvests. Since the Red Indian extinguished his fires, and left his hunting grounds, flocks and herds innumerable, have fed and fattened upon these hill sides, and annually for a hundred years, given their fleeces to the farmer, and their bodies to the butcher and the drover—yet to-day, for the first time in the history of the town, is held a public fair, for the exhibition of its stock and products. To-day we inaugurate the Hoosick Agricultural Fair; and we hope that every successive year will add to the interest, the beauty, and the profit of the exhibition; and that when another hundred years shall have rolled away, the inhabitants of this beautiful town, intelligent, prosperous and happy, will celebrate its centennial anniversary, and while acknowledging the important aid which this institution has rendered, will hold in grateful remembrance, the names and the memory of its founders.

The importance of this association cannot be overestimated, for it connects itself with that business, in which four-fifths of the laboring population of the world is engaged, and upon the successful condition of which, the prosperity of the whole depends.

This Society is instituted to encourage and promote Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts; to increase the products of the soil, and improve and multiply the implements and machinery with which it is cultivated—to exhibit in

friendly competition, the products of the field, orchard and garden, of the farm-house, factory and work-shop, and record for mutual benefit, the process by which these gratifying results have been produced. It is to extend the peaceful conquests of man over the earth, and convert to beneficent uses its abundant treasures. It is more. This Society is instituted to honor useful and intelligent Labor, and bind, "with victorious wreaths," the brows of honest and successful Industry. And though no warlike banner floats above us, though no trophies stained with the blood of the slain, decorate these grounds, and no iron fingers, moved by the lightning, record our doings, yet doubt not, friends and fellow laborers, that he who assists in this enterprise, performs an act as honorable to himself, as useful to man, and as acceptable to God, as he who wins a battle or takes a city.

The value of a measure is not to be estimated by the magnitude which it presents to the public eye, or by the excitement which it produces in the public mind. The gentle dew, though it falls unseen, and the sun-light, though it approaches with noiseless steps, and gently departs to repose in silence upon the bosom of night, clothe a world with the verdure and the beauty of plants and flowers; while the blasted oak and the ravaged field, are the only monuments of the thunder and the storm. So measures which startle the world by the boldness of the undertaking, and the grandeur of the result, find parallels to the deep injuries they commit, and the dark passions they arouse, in the ruin that marks the torrent, and the desolation that follows the storm. But those labors which encourage agriculture and promote the arts of peace, which silently and unobserved, remove the forest, drain the swamp, cover the barren plain with herbage, dot our bold hills and sweet valleys with the neat cottage and verdant lawn, which spread with luscious fruits the tables of Pomona, crown Ceres with golden sheaves, and hang in Flo-

ra's halls the richest specimens of her kingdom; which build the factory, construct the road, bridge the river, tunnel the mountain, connect city and country with bands of iron, and girdle the earth with lines for the instantaneous transmission of human thought; and which, while accomplishing these magnificent results, discharges the higher obligations of humanity, by founding institutions of learning, and building houses for christian worship—these are the dew and the sunshine of human life, which clothe its waste places in immortal green, and encircle the brow of toil with a more radiant glory than ever flashed from helmet, sword and shield, or blazed in the regalia of war's ensanguined heroes.

But, notwithstanding Labor has achieved for itself a character and position of influence and dignity, in some degree proportionate to the importance of its results, it is still far behind the requirements of the age, and far below the measure of its own ability.

The art and science of Agriculture, though subjects of experiment and investigation by some of the best minds of the age, are yet but imperfectly understood. The maximum capacity of the soil is not known; the exact conditions, chemical and mechanical, upon which fertility depends, are not ascertained; the best modes of tillage, not established; the best implements not introduced, nor invented; the highest developement of vegetable and animal life not reached; and the cultivation of the earth, though the God appointed occupation of man, holds a subordinate place among the departments of human labor.

How shall the necessary conditions to further agricultural improvement be secured, and farmers take the rank, exert the influence, and receive the honors to which, by their contributions to social order, and the welfare of the State, they are entitled?

I. By adopting a higher standard of education, both general and professional.

II. By a more thorough cultivation of the soil, by which its fertility shall be increased, and permanently maintained.

III. By the more general introduction of improved implements of husbandry, by which farm and household labor may be more easily, and more economically performed.

IV. By improving the breeds of domestic stock, and rearing only those animals which are the best of their respective kinds.

V. By growing only those roots, grains, grasses and fruits which are the most nutritious, and the most productive.

VI. By pursuing that particular branch of husbandry which gives the strongest probabilities of success; having reference to climate, soil, markets, and amount of foreign and domestic competition.

VII. By making the business of farming attractive to educated men, and the farm-house and all its surroundings pleasant to refined taste and cultivated manners.

I.

It cannot be necessary to remind you of that first great law upon which all successful industry depends—education—an intelligent acquaintance, not only with the manual operations of the farm, the dexterous use of the tools of your trade, but with the principles involved in producing from earth and air the fruits that load the orchard, the grain that covers the hill-side, the grass that clothes the meadow, and the cattle that feed in the pastures, and fatten in the stalls of the husbandman.

The want of education is so plainly written in the life, character and condition of the people with whom we come

in daily contact, that none but the most stupid can fail to perceive it, and none but the wilfully wicked will neglect to profit by the example. I say wicked, for I consider ignorance, especially in this land of freedom, filled with teachers, and radiant with the brilliant discoveries of genius, a crime, to which pains and penalties should be attached. The opinion that sins of ignorance will be winked at, and go unpunished, is in my opinion a mischievous error. The purpose for which man was endowed with reason, and placed but a little lower than the angels, was evidently that he should ascertain those natural laws by which the world and all organized life upon it are governed. How else can he fulfil the divine command, to subdue the earth, and hold dominion over it?

Without intellectual culture, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air would be man's superiors, and would hold possession of the fairest portions of the earth.

If education is necessary when only beasts and reptiles are our opponants, how much greater will be the need when the most ambitious of our own race, with intellect improved by the highest culture, with all the faculties sharpened by use, enter the lists in which life's highest honors and dearest joys are prizes to the victor. Such is really the nature of the battle in which we are engaged; and the time has come when a professional education, I mean an education specially adapted to the business we pursue, is necessary, not only to respectability and honorable consideration, but to comfortable subsistence.

Science, with new weapons in its hands, and strange devices upon its banner, has invaded the dominions of labor, and taken possession of its fields, its factories and its workshops, its quarries and its mines, and requires that henceforth, all who enter its service and receive its rewards, shall be trained soldiers, picked men—able to en-

dure the toils of conquest, and worthy to partake of the fruits of victory. Men who will execute upon correct principles, and in the highest style of art the work required of them.

Have you not yourselves felt the want of greater and more exact information upon subjects connected with your business? Do you not experience great difficulty in obtaining competent workmen? In short, have you not observed that a greater amount of information, and more skill is necessary now, to succeed in business, or to procure employment, than was required ten, or even five years ago? The man who five years ago was acquainted with the best modes of tillage, and familiar with all the implements of husbandry then in use, now finds himself, by the discovery of new facts, and the introduction of new implements and machinery, comparatively ignorant of the simplest part of his calling, and if he is seeking employment, will either fail to obtain it, or be obliged to accept smaller and insufficient wages.

The two great evils with which the farmer has to contend, and I shall offend no sensible person by naming them, are, first, his own want of correct information; and secondly, the ignorance of those whom he employs. When these evils shall be overcome, Agriculture will have achieved a permanent and substantial triumph, which will render all other acquisitions easy.

Let the farmer look upon his occupation as a profession, which to follow with success and fill with honor, demands an amount of learning, not less than is required by the professions of medicine, divinity and law. Let the son who is to follow the occupation of his father—to whom is bequeathed the farm, and the old homestead, that dear spot, “filled with shrines the heart hath builded,” let him, who is not only to represent the intelligence and refinement of

the present generation, but is also to embody and exhibit the simple manners, the homely virtues, the pious trust, and the warm, whole-hearted hospitality that characterized his ancestors ; let him, first and above all others of the family, receive a collegiate, a liberal education.

II.

A more thorough cultivation of the soil is necessary to greater success in farming.

No one doubts, that if the soil of the field was as highly manured, as deeply ploughed, and as finely pulverized as the soil of the garden, the product would be very largely increased. More depends upon a fine deep mellow soil than is generally supposed. All that portion of plants which is left in the form of ashes after burning, is taken from the soil ; and is composed of lime, magnesia, soda, potash, sulphur, phosphorous, chlorine and iron. All fertile soils contain these ingredients in a greater or less degree ; but before they can be appropriated by plants, and converted into grass and grain, they must be rendered soluble by a very minute division, and by exposure to light, heat, air and moisture.

A hard compact piece of earth, though containing all the inorganic ingredients of plants, will, if placed below the reach of atmospheric influences, remain unchanged forever. If you place it upon a cultivated field, let it be turned by the plough, beaten by the hoe, and exposed to the decomposing agencies that exist in the air and in the soil, and in a short time it will appear upon your table in some article of food, or upon your person in the garments you wear, or be sent to market in the form of beef and pork, and exchanged for tea and sugar, or for silks and laces.

The more finely the soil is divided, and the more fre-

quently it is turned and stirred, the greater will be the supply of food for the growing crop, and the more abundant will be the harvest.

III.

The introduction of improved implements of husbandry, and the substitution of horse and steam power for human muscle, are subjects which cannot be too often, nor too strongly pressed upon the attention of the farmer ; for on no subject connected with Agriculture, is there more indifference and prejudice. The mass of farmers seem to believe that mechanical science, while it has revolutionized every other department of labor, is inefficient and powerless, when applied to the operations of the farm ; and too many of them cling to the clumsy, ill-adapted implements, in use two and three generations ago.

That this practice is unprofitable, as well as opposed to the spirit of improvement and progress, which characterizes American citizens, can be easily demonstrated. But it requires no figures to show that with poor tools less work will be done, and more power expended.

The manufacturer understands this so well, that he is constantly on the look out for improved machinery ; and when he finds an article that will do more work in a given time, or which will lessen the cost, increase the quantity or improve the quality of the article he manufactures, he procures it at once, and sends the old one to the auction room or the lumber yard—and experience has shown this to be true economy.

Yet nothing is more difficult than to induce the farmer to lay aside the old clumsy and worn out tools of a past generation, and provide himself with those improved implements which inventive genius and artistic skill has placed within his reach.

'Tis true that one is occasionally found, who is above the prejudices of the age, and in advance of the times in which he lives; and who adopts with alacrity and gratitude all the improvements which are made for the abridgement of labor, and the elevation of the laborer. If it were not so, inventions would cease; discovery fold its wings, and the race return to its old condition of ignorance and barbarism.

The importance of following up the searchers after truth, and obtaining possession, for public and universal use, of the facts they discover, seems not to be sufficiently understood by any class of persons, however occupied—in whatever business engaged. Though we instinctively render homage to the men who achieve great victories in the world of science, and scale heights hitherto deemed inaccessible, yet it may well be doubted whether those humble individuals who appreciate, understand, and apply the principles which inventive genius has discovered, who embody in tangible and enduring forms, and for daily use, the ideas which from time to time fall from the lips of wisdom; who seize the golden threads spun from the brain of inventor, artist, philosopher and statesman, and weave them into the web of social and domestic life, have not won for themselves equal honor, and should have niches as lofty in the temple of fame as the Newton's and Franklin's, the Fulton's and Whitney's of the race.

The adventurous knight, who hews his way deep into opposing ranks, throws his life away, unless columns of trained warriors press into the crimson path, and assist to roll on the tide of victory. So the leaders of mankind in the great battle of life, though they prove themselves prodigies of intellectual valor, and with the spear of Ithuriel, cleave a glittering pathway far into the embattled hosts of ignorance and error, yet unless followed up by intelligent and discerning men, who are ready to defend and

maintain the truth, these pioneers and champions of the race, will go down in the strife, while hostile ranks close up and conceal the places where they fall. We may hope indeed, that when the evils which afflict humanity shall have been beaten back by the resistless march of science and the arts, the ashes of these great discoverers will be gathered up, and preserved in sacred mausoleums, and the world perform an annual pilgrimage to their shrines.

There is evidently much too large a space between the whole body of the people, and those who have gone farthest in the field of scientific research and enquiry. Important principles have been discovered and forgotten, re-discovered and again forgotten. Useful improvements in all the industrial arts have frequently been made and pressed upon the notice and acceptance of the people, who, wedded to old methods and old prejudices, refused to be benefitted thereby, and suffered the inventors to go unrewarded, and their discoveries to pass out of the memory of man. Nature daily re-possesses itself of important discoveries, made in the laboratory, in the shop, and in the closet, and the world takes no note of its loss. Whereas the space which divides the great masses of the people from the intellectual leaders of mankind, should be filled up and occupied, so that all the useful discoveries in science and inventions in the arts, may immediately become the property of the race, and be placed among the permanent and enduring acquisitions of freedom.

While the gifted sons of genius are pushing on their discoveries in the several departments in which they are engaged, planting along the pathways of life perennial groves, where the sons of labor may cool the fevered brow, and refresh the weary heart; opening the sparkling fountains of poetry and song, kindling the fires of patriotism and of devotion, compelling nature to give up her profoundest secrets, binding the elements to the car of civili-

zation, and making the invisible powers of earth and air agents of human progress, it is the duty of the people, the great body of the people, whom these labors are intended to elevate, improve and bless, to lay hold of and apply to practical and beneficent purposes, every discovery and every invention in the wide domains of science and the arts.

While the inspired men of the age push on, let not the masses hold back. Let no fire by freedom kindled be suffered to go out; no discovery or invention be neglected and forgotten. Let no ground once trod by the feet of learning be given up to ignorance—no place where religion has breathed its agonized prayer, or lifted its voice in praise, be abandoned to infidelity and vice; but let the people press up in unwavering and unbroken columns, and occupy every spot that genius and valor wins. Then there will be no longer any perceptible space between the leaders and the advancing column; between genius and skill; between discovery and application; for then the masses will keep fully up with the progressive spirit of the age in all the departments of human investigation and labor.

IV AND V.

On the subjects of improved breeds of animals, and the growing of the best and most nutritious crops, I shall not have time to enlarge, but earnestly recommend them to your serious consideration; merely reminding you, that as all animal bodies are built up and their daily waste restored by the food they eat, no body, brute or human, can reach that perfect and complete developement designed by the Creator, unless its food contains in just proportions, and in the highest state of perfection, all the substances of which that body is composed.

While animals are dependent for growth and healthy developement upon nutritious food, the grasses and grains

upon which they feed can only be raised upon a fertile soil—so that the richer the soil, the more luxuriant will be the vegetation, and the more vigorous, physically and mentally, will be the animals whose life and power it sustains.

The term, our Mother Earth, is not merely a poet's license. It is the fitting expression of a great and sublime truth. The more attention and respect we bestow upon this parent, the more bounteous will be her return—the richer her gifts, the more abundant her blessings.

VI.

The natural adaption of certain districts to particular pursuits, is a fact universally admitted, and should never be lost sight of by the farmer. Hence the physical resources, and business facilities of any region must be considered, before deciding upon the character and extent of the industrial pursuits, in which the people should engage.

The district of which Hoosick forms a part, extends from the southern limits of Rensselaer County, to the borders of Lake Champlain; and from the western base of the Green Mountains to the Hudson River. This district has strongly marked features, which indicate the nature and extent of its resources, and point unerringly to the occupations in which the people may engage, with the strongest assurances of success.

Though the land is somewhat rough and broken, and has a mean elevation of about 700 feet above tide water, yet its agricultural capacities are not surpassed by any district in this State, or in the Union. The sun does not look upon richer or more productive lands than lie in the valleys of the Hoosick, the Walloomsac, and the Battenkill. The high figures which our premium crops have reached, and

the number of prizes, running through all the departments of husbandry, which our farmers annually bear away from State and National Exhibitions, attest the truth of this seemingly bold assertion.

When Spring puts on her emerald robe, and leads out to rich pastures, the flocks and herds which Winter has released ; when Summer sends its heat deep into the soil, and calls forth all its productive energies, and when Autumn passes over woodland and field, ripening the grain, tinting the fruits, coloring the forest leaves with brighter hues than painter ever placed upon canvass ; and finally, as a parting benediction, lays down its golden glories at the feet of the husbandman ; this district presents pictures of beauty, combined with comfort and substantial wealth, which neither the broad plantations of the South, nor the endless prairies of the West, can exhibit.

Science confirms what these appearances lead us to expect. Chemical analysis has shown that the soil of this district is rich in all the inorganic ingredients which are found in plants—especially is it rich in those substances required by cereal crops—lime, potash, and the phosphates. This may be known by the size and beauty of its cattle, and the strength, activity and enterprise of its men. For you know that animals reared upon farms abounding in phosphate of lime, will be larger, more hardy, and have the osseous and muscular systems more fully developed.

The same is true of the human family, as may be seen by comparing the puny dwarfish Chinese who lives on rice and those vegetables which are chiefly composed of carbon and water, with the tall stalwart American, whose food consists of the bread of wheat and corn, and the flesh of animals, both rich in lime and phosphorous.

This district is naturally adapted to the growth of wheat and corn, as well as the coarser grains, and the roots and vegetables which are found in this latitude ; while for grazing, both of sheep and cattle, it is unsurpassed. Hoosick has numbered more sheep, and grown finer wool than any other town in the United States. Its fine cattle have long attracted the attention of breeders, and the dairies of the district are noted for excellence, and sought for by many dealers.

Markets for all our surplus productions are plenty, and of easy access. New England, stretching out her iron arms for food to supply her manufacturing population, will be a constant and liberal purchaser ; while the cities upon the Hudson, and the seaboard, will receive all that may be sent in that direction.

The farmer of this district may therefore choose that branch of husbandry which suits his taste or condition best, and pursue it with the certainty, that guided by science, and assisted by art, the products will be abundant, and the surplus find a ready sale at remunerating prices.

Other features characterize this district, which give it additional importance. Along its numerous valleys run bright and swift streams, which leap along from ledge to ledge, and offer as they pass, in the cheerful tones of a workman who never tires, to turn the wheel, drive the saw, throw the shuttle, blow at the forge, strike at the anvil, and move all the machinery which has been invented as a substitute for human hands and muscles.

Every hill and mountain side throughout this whole region are covered with valuable timber, and filled with mines of ore, quarries of marble, building stone, roofing slate, and materials for lime, brick, glass, and pottery ; all waiting for the transforming hands of industry and skill,

to be converted into articles of use and beauty, with which to supply the wants, gratify the taste, and increase the wealth of the people.

This district derives additional importance from the fact that its resources are exhaustless, and the means of successful labor, unchangeable. While the streams flow over their rocky beds, while the hills stand, and the soil remains, these benefits will last.

You who are in possession of this region, rich in soil, beautiful in scenery, watered by pure streams, and swept over by the health giving breezes from the mountains, have secured to yourselves an advantage which can never be taken away from you. While other persons are obliged to leave the homes of their youth and the bones of their ancestors, to follow in the shifting course of business and of population, you can enjoy all the benefits and all the blessings, which science and the arts are shedding over the land; and while you are enlarging your business, increasing your wealth, adding to your knowledge, extending your influence, and reaching up to a higher social and moral perfectability, you can preserve your seat at the old hearthstone, worship in the church your grand-sires built, and when you die, be deposited in the tombs and by the side of your fathers and your kindred.

Possessing these unlimited resources, and these great advantages, your duty is clear. It is written in the mine and in the quarry, and in the mountain forests, and is uttered unceasingly by the rapid and the waterfall.

While one portion of the people are engaged in tilling the soil, increasing and improving all its productions, covering the fields with richer harvests, filling the stalls and pastures with finer cattle, and the house with happier men and women; the other should convert the mineral and

forest treasures of this district to the uses of man—give profitable employment to the mechanic—create new, nearer, and better markets for the products of the farm—draw more closely the bonds that unite the farmer, the mechanic, the manufacturer, the merchant, and the man of letters. Spread the great truth that all industrial pursuits, whether of the head or the hands, are streams from the exhaustless fountain of labor; which after fertilizing the regions through which they flow, and mingling together in the great ocean of human necessity, return like the cloud and the rain, to replenish and bless the source from whence they sprung. Leave none of the resources, whether of the soil, the forest, the quarry or the mine, undeveloped; but secure all these abounding elements of wealth, and use them for the noble purpose for which they were designed, the full developement of physical and intellectual life.

VII.

Another consideration, and the last I shall present, is the importance of making the business of farming attractive, and the farm house and all that pertains to it, convenient and pleasant.

No business can be attractive that is not performed with neatness and order, by worthy and intelligent workmen. Farmers, as a class, are too indifferent to the neat, tidy and thriving appearance of the farm and the dwelling house, and seem not to know how much of their own comfort, cheerfulness, good nature, and hearty performance of their daily labor depend upon these outward conditions. If the crops are satisfactory, if the barn and the granary are well filled they are content, though the fences are lined with briars, the gates broken, buildings dilapidated, and the doorway and road side obstructed by broken implements and useless lumber. A little time and a small amount of means, would remove these defects; unimportant, perhaps, to those

who are familiar with them, but which are nevertheless offensive to the eye of taste, and do really lessen the value of the farm, and the attractiveness of farm labor.

That the occupation of farming admits of the exercise of more good taste, and a greater display of artistic embellishment than any other business or profession, will be readily admitted. Nature provides, with lavish hand, materials for the most gorgeous decoration. The brook, the green bank, the grey rock, the majestic tree, the gay flower and fragrant herb, and the "brave old plant, creeping where no life is seen," are features which art cannot imitate, and none but a dweller in the country can possess. To arrange these objects so that while the comfort and taste of the owner are gratified and increased, they will strike the beholder with a sense of beauty and delight, is the province and the duty of the farmer.

The dwelling-house should receive more attention, not only as regards its adaptation to the requirements of labor, but for its moral effect upon the family; most of whose inner and better life is spent within its walls.

Household labor might be greatly lessened, and many petty annoyances wholly avoided, if the house was properly constructed and provided with those conveniences which country life and rural labor require. Money is well invested when it is spent in increasing the sum of household comforts—in securing the free admission of light and air, procuring an easy and abundant supply of water, providing more convenient apparatus for the wash-house and the dairy room; better utensils for the kitchen, nicer ware for the table, more appropriate furniture for the living room; the nice center table, the easy chair, the well filled book case; these will pay a dividend, of solid substantial enjoyment, when Banks fail and Stocks are worthless.

I have a friend whose house, though by no means expensive, is a model of architectural beauty. It is furnished with exquisite taste, and supplied with all the conveniences that can lessen the labor and increase the comforts of housekeeping. In answer to the question, how he could afford to have so many nice things; he said he never put the question to himself in that form—he never asked whether he could afford to have an article of household convenience; but whether he could afford to do without it. The remark was treasured up, as containing a truth of great practical importance. I repeat it to you, and ask if in view of the truer and better modes of living to which you hope to attain, and introduce your children, there is not a long list of articles which minister to the comforts and pleasures of domestic life, which you cannot afford to do without.

The moral considerations connected with this subject should not be overlooked. I am not prepared to say that vice and immorality do not dwell within ornamented walls and under gilded roofs; but I do insist that a beautiful house tastefully furnished and decorated, grounds handsomely laid out and embellished, beautiful flowers, rare plants, noble trees, graceful statuary, with hospitality at the gate, welcome at the door, courtesy and refinement in the house, have an influence in training the hands to industry and the heart to virtue, which cannot be over estimated. The senses, the eye and the ear, are avenues through which life's deepest fountains are reached and moved. As devotion is excited by the grandeur of the cathedral, the solemn chaunt of its deep toned organ, the mystic symbols upon the altar, the glowing pictures of the Saviour and the cross, so the heart is moved to love and respect, and obedience, filled with affectionate desires and holy sympathies, by the presence of those consecrated objects with which genius and taste decorate the house, embellish the

grounds, and clothe with a serene and spiritual beauty the homes they inhabit.

I have thus, in a brief and imperfect manner, indicated some of the means by which the condition of the farmer may be improved, and his full share of life's blessings, its honors and its rewards be obtained. If you devote your energies to develop the resources of the district in which you live, if you use your wealth for beneficent purposes—to improve and beautify the farm and the dwelling house, to encourage the liberal arts, support education, extend knowledge and diffuse christianity, you will doubtless act in harmony with Heaven's design, and secure the social advancement and intellectual elevation of the class to which you belong.

Then will you fulfil that law of man's being, which makes honorable fame depend upon a life of useful labor. And then will the execution of earthly duties and the possession of earthly honors, prepare you to perform the delightful labor, and receive the glorious rewards of another and a better life.



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